

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 04327 251815Z

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4972

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT SHUM PGOV CI

SUBJECT: GOC APPROVES PUBLICATION OF "HOY"

REF: A) SANTIAGO 2028, B) SANTIAGO 1489, C) SANTIAGO 885

1. GOC APPROVED UNDER ITS INTERNAL SECURITY DECREE PUBLICATION OF NEW WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE "HOY" TO BE EDITED BY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT EMILIO FILIPPE. THE MAGAZINE WILL APPEAR ON JUNE 1. THE GOC JUSTIFIED LONG DELAY BY SAYING IT HAD TO SATISFY ITSELF THAT NO "IMPROPER FOREIGN ELEMENTS" OR POLITICAL PARTIES WOULD CONTROL THE MAGAZINE. TO THIS END THE GOC SAID IT CONDUCTED A CAREFUL AND IN-DEPTH STUDY OF THE SOURCE OF FINANCING FOR THE MAGAZINE. ALSO, THE GOC WAS RELYING UPON "HOY'S" STATED INTENT TO OFFER "SERIOUS, TRUTHFUL AND NON-PARTISAN JOURNALISM". THE GOC ADDED THAT ITS APPROVAL REAFFIRMED ITS RESPECT FOR FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND INFORMATION SO LONG AS IT CONFORMITY WITH THE LIMITS IMPOSED BY NATIONAL SECURITY.

2. AS DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL, FILIPPI RESIGNED AS EDITOR OF THE FORMER CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT-ORIENTED PUBLICATION "ERCILLA" AFTER IT BECAME CLEAR THAT HE COULD NOT WORK WITH THE NEW CONSERVATIVE OWNERS;

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VIRTUALLY THE ENTIRE NEWSTAFF QUIT WITH HIM. ON JANUARY 28, FILIPPI ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION OF "HOY", TO BE PUBLISHED IN MARCH -- EARLY APRIL. PREPARATIONS WERE SET BACK WHEN THE GOVERNMENT ISSUED AN ADMINISTRATIVE DECREE (BANDO 107) MARCH 11 REQUIRING ALL NEW PUBLICATIONS TO BE APPROVED IN ADVANCE BY THE NATIONAL SOCIAL COMMUNICATION OFFICE

OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PRESIDENCY. THIS OFFICE WAS OSTENSIBLY GIVEN A FREE HAND IN DETERMINING WHETHER A PUBLICATION WOULD BE ALLOWED, BUT THE DECISION CERTAINLY WAS MADE MUCH HIGHER IN THE GOVERNMENT.

3. COMMENT: THE LONG-EXPECTED APPROVAL FOR "HOY'S" PUBLICATION PROBABLY MARKS THE LAST CHAPTER IN PINOCHET'S RETRENCHMENT FROM HIS EARLY MARCH OUTBURST AGAINST DEMOCRATIC DISSENTERS. AT THAT TIME HE DISSOLVED THE RECESSED, NON-MARXIST POLITICAL PARTIES AND HAD BANDO 107 ISSUED. THESE DECISIONS GENERATED AN OUTCRY FROM INFLUENTIAL CIVILIAN SUPPORT SECTORS AND DISTURBED SOME WITHIN THE MILITARY WHICH LED PINOCHET TO A SERIES OF CONCILIATORY STEPS: HIS MARCH 18 SPEECH, WAFLING ON BANDO 107'S REQUIREMENT FOR PRIOR APPROVAL ON IMPORTED PRINTED MATTER, AND NOW, RELUCTANCE TO EMPLOY BANDO 107'S PRIOR CENSORSHIP AUTHORITY.

4. THE GOVERNMENT MUST REALIZE THAT ITS CONCEPT OF "SERIOUS, TRUTHFUL AND NON-PARTISAN JOURNALISM" DIFFERS FROM GOOD CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT EMILIO FILIPPI'S VERSION. IT IS PROBABLY ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL FILIPPI AND HIS TEAM CLASH WITH THE MONITORS OF CHILEAN NATIONAL SECURITY WITH PREDICTABLE RESULTS. SHOULD "HOY'S" ANTI-GOVERNMENT BIAS BECOME MANIFEST AND GOC THEN SHUT IT DOWN, MANY CONSERVATIVES, WHO FIND PRIOR CENSORSHIP ABHORRENT, WOULD NOT OBJECT.
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5. WE SEE IN THIS PATTERN OF EVENTS EVIDENCE THAT PINOCHET WILL BACK PEDAL IN ORDER TO PRESERVE KEY SUPPORT BASES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 25-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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